

VI. *Note on Tachyris melania of Fabricius.* By
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[Read December 5th, 1883.]

THIS species is very briefly characterised by Fabricius in *Syst. En.*, p. 475, n. 140 (1775), and is figured by Donovan, *Ins. N. Holland*, t. 17, fig. 2 (1805). The type is in the Banksian collection in the British Museum, and is referred to by the late Mr. Hewitson, *Trans. Ent. Soc. Lond.*, 1868, p. 99, and is refigured and redescribed by Mr. Butler in '*Cruise of Curaçoa*,' p. 471, pl. 49, figs. 4, 5 (1873).

The fact of the existence of the type seems to have been overlooked by Mr. Wallace in his paper on Eastern *Pieridæ*, *Trans. Ent. Soc. Lond.*, 3rd ser., vol. iv., p. 371 (1867), where he proposes to drop the Fabrician name altogether, as being a species "which has never yet been properly identified, and probably never will be."

I am glad to be able to throw a little additional light on this species. I have in my possession, from Cape York, specimens of both sexes, or at least what is certainly the female, and, I have no doubt, the opposite sex also.

Mr. Butler's description and figure enable me to determine my specimen of the female beyond question (he, however, describes the specimen in the Banksian collection erroneously as a male; it is undoubtedly the female). The only difference to be discerned between my specimen (female) and Butler's figure and description is that in mine the expanse of wing is rather less, rather less white in primaries (occasioned by the outer marginal band being continued to hinder angle, and the somewhat increased dark basal area), the apical spots being continued in a row nearly to hinder angle; in secondaries by the white area extending nearly across the wing, and on the under side of primaries the base being greenish yellow instead of orange; in all other respects it exactly agrees, the generally distinguishing feature of the species being the predominating uniform grey-blue tint of the

upper side in the female, the male being entirely grey-blue, and the rosy shining brown of the under side in both sexes.

The male is *T. Clementina*, Felder, Reise Nov. Lep., ii., p. 162, n. 133, t. 25, fig. 6 (1865), with which figure and description my specimen exactly agrees.

There can be no doubt, after seeing these two insects together, that they are the sexes of one species; both my specimens were captured at one time and in the same locality (Cape York).

It is possible that in another locality a different form of the female may be produced, and Mr. Wallace's surmised female still be correct, although I am inclined to think it belongs to another species.

The *T. melania* of Boisduval has been long satisfactorily determined to be the female of *T. Ega* of the same author; this is one of our most common species, and there is no doubt whatever of the correctness of this conclusion.